



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

June 30, 2020

The Honorable David Bernhardt  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretary Bernhardt,

As the co-chair of the Congressional Historic Preservation Caucus, I write to express my full support for the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and Oregon State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation's (SACHP) nomination for Darcelle XV in Portland, Oregon to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Darcelle XV is a nightclub and drag venue that has been owned and operated by Walter Cole since 1967, and is located in a three-story brick building completed in 1910. The club pre-dates the famous Stonewall uprising that is often regarded as the start of the LGBTQ+ rights movement. Walter Cole and his club were influential in educating the straight mainstream through drag performance, an art form that is now widely accepted and celebrated in this country. This mainstream acceptance of drag performance contributed to a broader societal acceptance of gay rights. Further, Walter Cole persevered through discrimination during the 1970s and kept the club active for over 50 years. In line with NRHP criteria, Darcelle XV should be memorialized for its historical role in using entertainment to impact a cultural shift in the acceptance of LGBTQ+ rights.

In addition, the building meets the criteria by having maintained its original structure and aesthetic integrity, with only minor interior and exterior changes. To this day, the interior boasts original columns and décor that mirror its character from the period of significance. The exterior's historic features, such as the canopy and transom, also embody its role in history.

In honor of Pride Month, a month dedicated to celebrating the LGBTQ+ community, Darcelle XV should be celebrated for its historic significance, both culturally and architecturally. I ask that you give the NRHP nomination for Darcelle XV your full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Earl Blumenauer".

Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress